



OPI Montana Office of Public Instruction

Linda McCulloch, Superintendent www.opi.mt.gov



Teen Driver Education

The Challenges of Deploying Best Practices

David Huff

Traffic Education Director

GHSA Conference

Oklahoma City, OK

September 18, 2006

Education In The Mix

- Licensing
- Parent Role
- Graduated Driver License
- Research
- Highway Design
- Vehicle Design
- Enforcement (consequence education)
- Public Information campaigns (stealth education)
- Driver Edu....what?



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Historical Review of Education

- 1940s – 1950s Early Models of Driver Ed
- 1960s Highway Safety Act
- 1970s Build up of infrastructure
- 1980s Crumbling of infrastructure
- 1990s The Dark Middle Ages
- 2000s The Reformation?
 - Crash of Driver Ed Car in Belgrade, Montana
 - One teacher & 3 students die
 - NTSB Investigation
 - NTSB National Forum on Driver Education
 - NTSB Recommendations to Validate Best Practices
 - TRB Driver Education The Plan Ahead (Circular #E-C101, Aug. 2006)



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

What is Driver Education?

- We have focused so long on what it is not, that we have lost sight of what it is and the value it can and does bring.
- How can crash reduction efforts be successful if kids and society do not know what is expected nor possess the skills needed to perform the expected behaviors?
- Driver Education/Training is the foundation upon which safe driving norms and crash reduction interventions are built.



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Challenges of Deploying Best Practices

Challenge # 1

The Attitude of Society about Driver Education

- **We don't believe driver education makes any difference in the reduction of crashes so we dismiss its potential.**
- **And if we could make it effective, we don't believe it is worth the cost it will involve.**
- **We, the public, researchers, and policy makers, need an attitude adjustment.**



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

The Importance of Attitude

- We can never educate behavior change. We must identify and change the underlying attitudes that generate the decisions that drive our behaviors. (Ray Ferns, Restorative Correctional Services)
- Technologies exist to do this, one is called: Cognitive Disruption.
- Attitude is key, not just with society's willingness to address driver education, but with teens behaviors in driving safely.



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Challenges of Deploying Best Practices

Challenge # 2

We Don't Know What Makes a Safe Teen Driver

- **Without educational outcomes defined, it is difficult to craft effective driver education curriculum, or to measure its effectiveness.**
- **We know a lot about educational effectiveness, but we have yet to apply and validate it with driver education.**



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Challenges of Deploying Best Practices

Challenge # 3

Our Lack of Validated Driver Education Measures

- **Research and validation measures stalled in the 1980s.**
- **Other research in education activities has continued, but not applied to driver education.**



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Challenges of Deploying Best Practices

Challenge # 4

Delivering Trained, Qualified Teachers

- ❖ **Teacher preparation infrastructure has collapsed. Quality preparation for teachers is hard to find and/or access.**
- ❖ **Teacher qualifications vary widely from state to state and are often below standards for other education and public safety disciplines.**



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Challenges of Deploying Best Practices

Challenge # 5

Consistency In Driver Education Program Standards

- Many states have different standards for different programs, i.e., public sector schools vs. private driving schools.
- Monitoring of programs to ensure consistency with standards is all but absent in most states.
 - The natural refining dynamics of free enterprise are absent in driver education.



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Where Best Practices Need to be Deployed

Area 1 - Programs

- We know what makes up highly effective schools
 - Let's apply and validate them to Driver Training
- We know complex skills that integrate mind and muscle take months and years to develop
 - Lets begin requiring longer periods in the education process and quit treating as a convenience issue
- We know that integrating classroom and skill practice is better than separating them.
 - Lets not continue to treat classroom and BTW instruction as two unrelated pieces of driver education
- We know this is a huge public health & safety Issue
 - Lets not continue to treat is as a business issue (that's not to say business does not have an important role)



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Where Best Practices Need to be Deployed Area 2 - Curriculum

- We've made inroads in this area, but it needs to be validated
- Fred Mottola of the National Institute of Driver Behavior has made significant progress
 - Use more classroom time to learn and practice driving (Not yet in widespread use)
- There are too many related but off-target topics competing for driver education/training time
 - Let's find out and focus on what teens need
 - Find other ways to communicate the other stuff



Where Best Practices Need to be Deployed

Area 3 – Training Technologies

- Simulations: the military has proven the value of simulation
 - Let's validate and use inexpensive simulations
- Psychometrics: there are cutting edge tests that can assess a persons attitudes and skills and accurately predict crash potential
 - Let's use these to tailor corrective training to the individual's need
- The teen brain is not hard wired for reasoned safe behavior
 - Let's explore training technologies to compensate



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Where Best Practices Need to be Deployed

Area 4 - Instructors

- We are losing our experienced teacher trainers to retirement
- Professionally trained teachers are also retiring and it is more and more difficult to get younger teachers with the same level of professional preparation
- Training needs to be in content and best education techniques specific to the driver safety domain—classroom and BTW.
- Teachers need newer teaching technologies, i.e., tools to teach vehicles skills during the classroom to more fully prepare for the BTW training, use of psychometrics, etc.
- Teachers need the training to design and deliver integrated classroom and BTW training.



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Where Best Practices Need to be Deployed

Area 5 – Oversight/Monitoring/Evaluating

■ Oversight

- Programs and teachers need to be accountable and meet minimum expectations of society for excellence. Who will move this forward?

■ Monitoring

- Programs and teachers need healthy and timely feedback in order to build on strengths, deficiencies and improve

■ Evaluation – periodic assessments are necessary

- To ensure teachers got the proper training and tools and are teaching what is expected, and the students are getting it
- To determine if the process is the best process to achieve societies expectations



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Where Best Practices Need to be Deployed

Area 6 - Collaborations

• Licensing

- GDL – more fully explore phased education with phased licensing
- Interstate and Intrastate options – the notion that a teen driver licensed in Jordon, MT is ready for LA, Denver or New York is nonsense

• Parent Role

- We're going the wrong direction on this one
- We need them in the right direction

• Other safety efforts

- Strategic planning

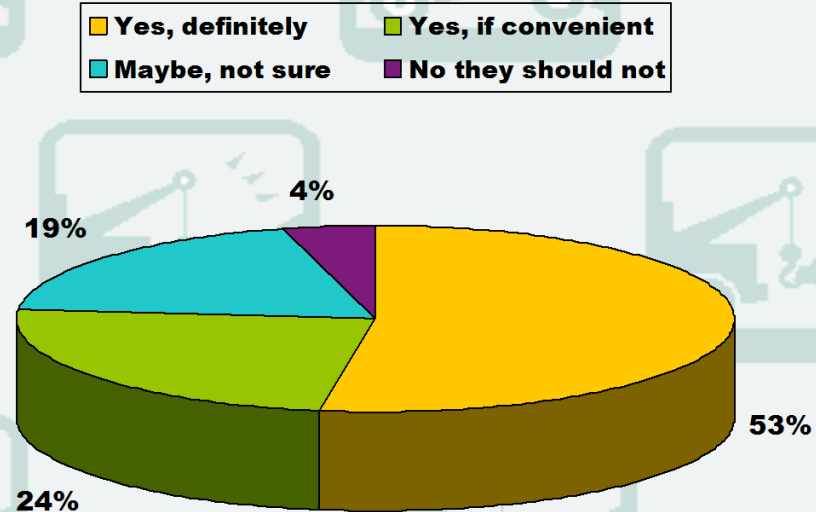


Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Montana Parent Survey

Should parents be required to be involved in driver's ed?



UNC CHARLOTTE



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
Montana Office of Public Instruction
www.opi.mt.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

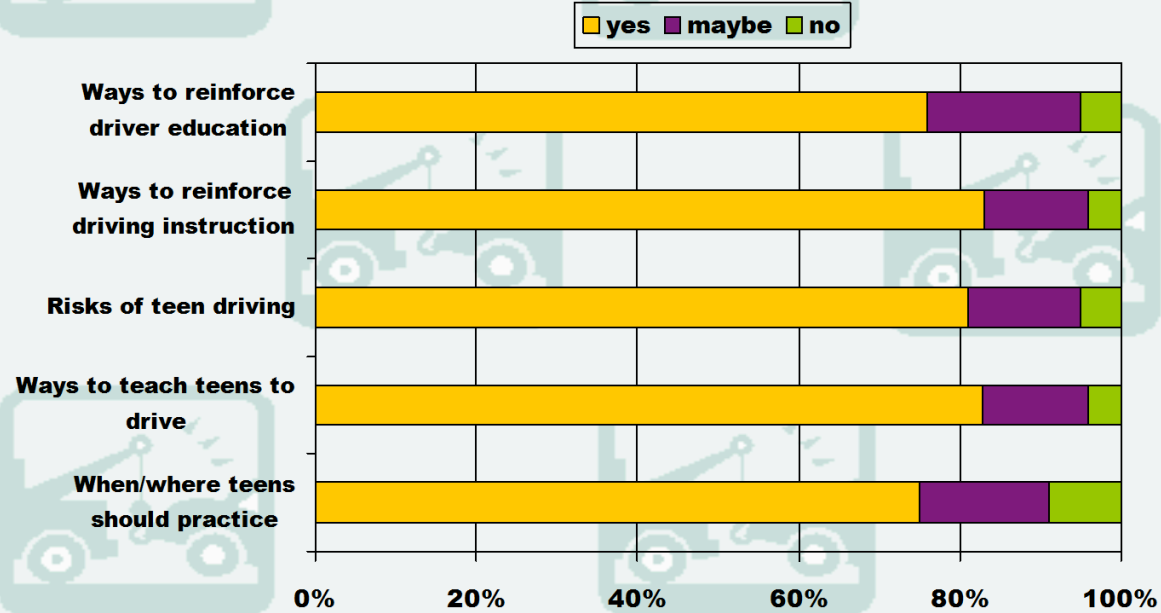


Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Montana Parent Survey

Would you want information on any of the following?



UNC CHARLOTTE



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
Montana Office of Public Instruction
www.opi.mt.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Montana GDL Parent Role Guide

Four Basic Messages

- Know Montana's GDL laws
- Supervise teen driving
- Set family driving rules and limits
- Impose consequences for violations

**The Parent Role
In Teen Driving and
Graduated Driver Licensing**

GDL
in Montana



Major Sponsor

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR  STATE FARM IS THERE.®

OTHER SPONSORS & PARTNERS



AAA Mountain West
www.aaa.com



**Department of Justice
Motor Vehicle Division**
www.doj.mt.gov



**Office of Public Instruction
Traffic Education Program**
www.opi.mt.gov



**Department of Transportation
Highway Traffic Safety Division**
www.mdt.mt.gov



**Montana Traffic Education
Association**



**Montana Council for Maternal &
Child Health**
mcmch@sy-key.com



**Montana Chapter, American
Academy of Pediatrics**
www.aap.org



**MT DPHHS, EMS & Trauma Systems
Section** <http://montanaems.mt.gov>



Montana Motor Carriers Association
www.mttrucking.org

Additional Resources about Teen Driving

- Partners for Safe Teen Driving
<http://www.safeteendiving.org/>
- Road Ready Teens
<http://www.roadreadyteens.org/>
- NETS Network of Employees for Traffic Safety
<http://www.trafficsafety.org/worklifeinvoce.asp>
- National Safety Council
<http://www.nsc.org/issues/teendiving/>
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Montana Driver Education Curriculum

- Standards/Benchmarks
- Scope and Sequence
- Curriculum Map
- Supplemental Resources
- 20 Modules
 - Lesson Plans
 - PowerPoint Lectures
 - Student Activities/PEPs
 - Worksheets
 - Fact Sheets
 - Quizzes/Tests/Answers/Test Banks



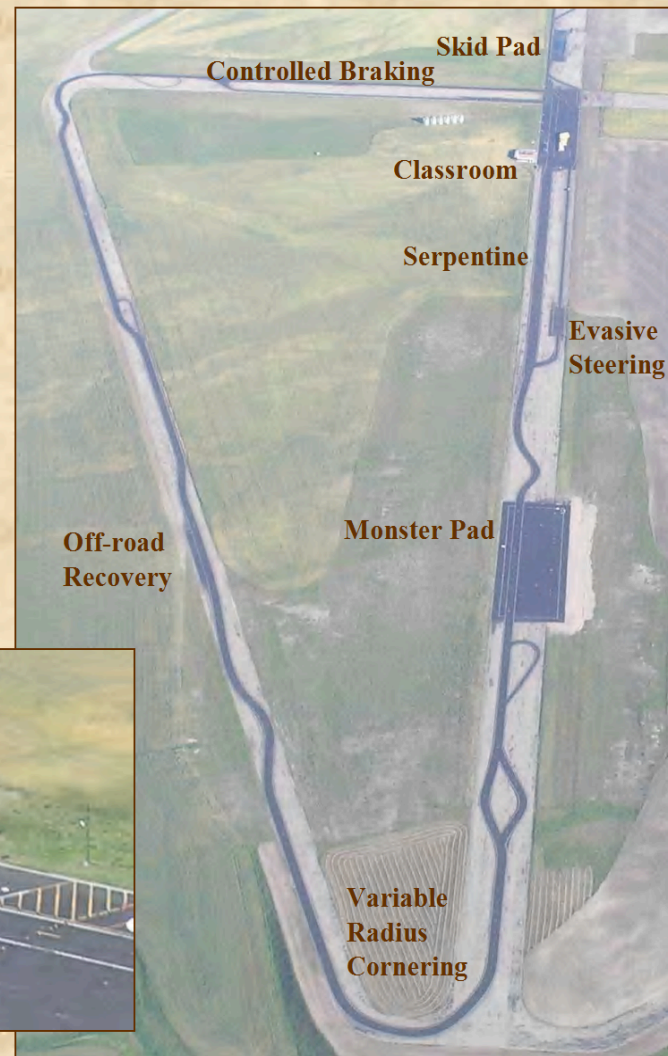
Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

Advanced Options



Montana DR.I.V.E. Facility



Montana Improvements/Collaborations



- Parent Survey (Completed)
 - Expanded to Include Native Americans
- GDL Parent Role Brochure
- Two-Stage Teen Driver Education Research
- Planned: CheckPoints style Parent Teen Contract Web Page plus validations research
- Proposed: Native American Teacher/Program Expansion and Study
- Ongoing: Strategic Planning with State Highway Safety Panel.



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

What Will It Take To Move Forward Challenge # 6

Allocating Resources to Adequately Address Driver Education Challenges

- The status quo has all but left the improvement of driver education out of driver improvement strategies
- Government agencies and industry efforts are reluctant to own the challenge.



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006

- 
- **Education is a key piece of our young driver solution strategies.**

THANK YOU

www.opi.mt.gov/drivered

dhuff@mt.gov



Montana Office of Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
www.opi.mt.gov

Date Produced: 9/22/2006